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STATINTL

Latins Trained In Cuba

CIA Testimony Bared by Senate

By Herald Wire Services

WASHINGTON — CIA Director John A. McCone said in testimony released Friday that more than 1,500 people from Latin American countries have been brought to Cuba for training in subversion, sabotage and guerrilla warfare. He said more are still going.

His statement was made public as President Kennedy told visiting Argentine War College students that the Western Hemisphere has a good deal of unfinished business ahead as it strives to guard against subversion and other "foreign activities."

McCone, like his CIA predecessor, Allen W. Dulles, also saw little or no hope that the people of Cuba will stage a successful revolt against the Castro regime. The McCone-Dulles position is that such revolts are all but impossible in police states.

A censored transcript of McCone's testimony last week before the House foreign affairs subcommittee on Latin American subversion was released by Subcommittee Chairman Armistead Selden (D., Ala.).

A Republican critic, meanwhile, charged the administration "is not leveling with us."

Rep. H. R. Gross (R., Iowa), a member of the House foreign affairs subcommittee, complained the intelligence director "was not very lucid on a lot of this stuff" when he appeared before the subcommittee Feb. 19.

Gross claimed McCone's appearance was part of a pattern of "cover-up of what has happened, and then building up a case for giving more money to the Alliance for Progress."

Gross said: "We are not getting the information we need with respect to immediate policy . . . what is being done to remove the cancer that is Cuba."

McCone said that at least 1,000 to 1,500 people from all Latin American countries except Uruguay entered Cuba last year for indoctrination and training in subversion to be practiced at home. He said more were brought in this year.

The CIA chief said the greatest number, some 200, came from Venezuela, the primary Castro target for revolution.

But he said Venezuelan President Romulo Betancourt, recently promised full help by President Kennedy, appears able to control subversive forces and is becoming "the first freely elected Venezuelan president in history to complete his term."

McCone testified that funds and a small amount of Communist-bloc weapons are sent from Cuba to other countries. The Cuban subversive effort, he said, "is far more sophisticated, more covert and more deadly" than in the early days of Cuban Premier Fidel Castro.

"In its professional tradecraft, it shows guidance and training by experienced Communist advisers from the Soviet bloc, including veteran Spanish Communists," he said.

As for arms shipments, McCone said that generally the Cubans follow the Communist textbook and tell guerrilla [illegible] students and their [illegible] to get weapons at [illegible]. But he said more weapons would be sent if such shipments would [illegible] revolts . . . [illegible] transcript with its [illegible] did not go into the subject of a possible Cuban uprising. But Selden said he held out no such hope because "Cuba is a police state and it would be extremely difficult for an unarmed population to rise."

McCone's testimony and the reaction to it served to dramatize anew how the focus of congressional concern over Cuba has shifted to the subversion peril and away from talk of a direct military threat.

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